

Message Text

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44

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1874

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0225

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0614

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD DECEMBER

6-12

1. DURING THE DECEMBER 7 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA
FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, EASTERN REPS, IN MAKING
THE CASE FOR EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS, CLAIMED THAT
THE EXISTING FORCE RELATIONSHIP IN CENTRAL EUROPE MUST
BE PRESERVED AS A NECESSARY BASIS FOR DETENTE AND FOR
THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES. THEY KEPT UP THEIR ATTACK

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ON THE SELECTIVE WESTERN APPROACH TO THE REDUCTION OF

ARMAMENTS AND CHARGED THAT THE WESTERN COMMITMENTS, WHILE REQUIRING THE EAST TO SUBSCRIBE CONCRETELY TO THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN PROGRAM. WESTERN REPS CRITICIZED THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH FOR FOCUSING ON REDUCTION METHOD INSTEAD OF OUTCOME. THEY DREW ATTENTION TO CONTINUED AMBIGUITIES IN EASTERN CLAIMS TO HAVE MOVED IN THE FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL TOWARDS THE WESTERN POSITION PHASING AND CONTRASTED THE INEQUITY AND IMPRACTICAL NATURE OF THE EASTERN POSITION ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS WITH THE MORE PRACTICAL WESTERN APPROACH.

2. IN THE ONLY PRESENTATION GIVEN AT THE DECEMBER 9 PLENARY MEETING, BELGIAN REP SMOLDEREN FOCUSED ON THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR A REDUCTION APPROACH THAT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING THE NEW ONES WHICH WOULD STEM FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AGREEMENT. BELGIAN REP STATED THAT, UNLIKE THOSE OF THE EAST, WESTERN PROPOSALS GIVE DUE REGARD TO THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEMS BEING ADDRESSED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND PROVIDE A PRACTICAL BASIS FOR THEIR RESOLUTION IN A WAY WHICH WOULD LEAD TO AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME.

3. IN THE REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING, JOURNALISTS SHOWED A SHARPENED INTEREST IN THE DATA ISSUE. A WESTERN CORRESPONDENT SUGGESTED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE AN INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE WESTERN EMPHASIS ON DATA THAT PRECEDED THE JUNE 10 TABLING BY THE EAST OF FIGURES FOR WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA AND THE FAILURE OF THE WEST TO RESPOND THUSFAR TO THAT EASTERN MOVE WITH REVISED NATO DATA. IN RESPONDING TO THE VARIOUS DATA QUERIES, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN MADE THE POINTS THAT: (A) OBJECTIVE DATA WOULD CONFIRM THE EXISTENCE OF AN EQUILIBRIUM OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE; (B) THERE WERE NO FACTS ON THE TABLE TO SUPPORT WESTERN TALK OF DISPARITIES; AND (C) THE LACK OF REVISED WESTERN DATA WAS HOLDING UP THE NEGOTIATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME,

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RESPONSE, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN ADVISED AGAINST OVER-DRAMATIZING THE DATA ISSUE SINCE THE QUESTION OF FIGURES WAS NOT THE FOCAL POINT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. RESOR

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